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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LIANG, GWEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

10

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/626,965

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Examiner

GWEN LIANG

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/17/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment C, filed on 11/17/2003.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-3, 9-11, 13-16 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claims 1-3, 10-11, 13-16, the word "electronized" is not found in any commonly used English dictionary. The Examiner suggests that "electronized" be replaced with "digitized".

In claim 2, line 12, "data base" should be changed to "database" to conform to the "database" used in other claims such as "knowledge database" in claim 1 line 2.

In claim 9, line 1, the word "development" is missing after "A component".

In claim 9, line 13, "data base" should be changed to "database" to conform to the "database" used in other claims such as "knowledge database" in claim 1 line 2.

In claim 9, line 13, "it" should be changed to "said management unit" to clearly identify the claimed subject matter.

In claim 10, line 13, "data base" should be changed to "database" to conform to the "database" used in other claims such as "knowledge database" in claim 1 line 2.

Appropriate correction is required to be made to the aforementioned and any other informalities existing in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 2 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 2 lines 4-5, the claim language "that is generated in processes from design, development, manufacture and inspection, of a product" is different from the written description in the specification page 17 lines 20-22.

Claim 11 lines 6-7, the claim language "generated in processes from design, development, manufacture and inspection, of a product" is different from the written description in the specification page 17 lines 20-22.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitations "the hardware and firmware electronized components" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

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Claim 1 recites the limitations "said hardware and said firmware components" in line 9. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 1 recites the limitations "the component knowledge data base" in line 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

In claim 1, it is unclear to the Examiner whether the clause "which takes out ..." in line 13 is describing "one client" or "a network".

Claim 2 recites the limitations "the component knowledge data base" in line 12. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 9 recites the limitations "the hardware and firmware development data" in line 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitations "the hardware and firmware components" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitations "said hardware and said firmware components" in line 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitations "said storage unit" in line 15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claim.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments in Amendment C, filed on 11/17/2003 in paper number 9, with respect to the prior arts have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Van Huben et al., "Van Huben " (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,265).

With respect to claim 1, Van Huben discloses a component management system comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronized components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each electronized component being electronized information generated during a product design, development, manufacture, and inspection, wherein the hardware and firmware electronized components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronized information (See for example: col. 1 lines 21-26, col. 6 lines 64 – col. 7 line 3; col. 13 lines 30-42; Fig. 101, Fig. 102), and

wherein said hardware and firmware components constituting said product are at a same management level (See for example: col. 8 lines 3-9; col. 17 line 64 – col. 18 line 16, wherein it is clearly illustrated all the necessary design components with the latest versions will be picked up using the library search mechanism; Fig. 102);

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a server which manages the component knowledge data base stored in said storage unit; and at least one client, connected to said server via a network, which takes out a predetermined component data from said storage unit via said network (See for example: col. 6 lines 58-61, wherein a client/server environment is disclosed; col. 7 lines 4-16, wherein the data management system receives a request of a user from a client terminal and the results are provided via the data management system;); and

Claims 2, 10 are rejected on grounds similar to the reasons given above for claim 1.

Claim 3 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management device wherein said hardware and firmware components as a plurality of electronized information generated from the design, development, manufacture and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure and said storage unit stores meta-information expressing the hierarchical structure and said client takes out a desired component from said plurality of components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta information (See for example: Abstract, Fig. 77; col. 7 lines 4-16; col. 48 lines 45-48, col. 96 lines 13-20; col. 87 lines 6-11).

Claim 4 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management device wherein the meta-information comprises taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component, and wherein said client takes out the

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applicable component based on the taking-out limiting information (See for example: col. 15 lines 8-13).

Claim 5 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management device wherein said component comprises patch information for automatically performing a patch processing to a firmware, and wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware based on the patch information. (See for example: col. 16 lines 65-67; col. 27 lines 40-64).

Claim 6 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 3.

Claim 7 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management device wherein said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client via said network when a component already stored in said storage unit is revised and sends a notice of new registration to said client via said network when a new component is registered in said storage unit, and wherein said client takes out said component at an arbitrary timing after said client receives the notice of revision or the notice of new registration (See for example: col. 20 lines 44-49; col. 20 lines 58-64; col. 87 lines 55-62).

Claim 8 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 2 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management device wherein said management unit conducts communications related to the development consignment of said product with a development maker side client placed in an external development

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maker and connected thereto via said network (See for example: col. 6 line 64 – col. 7 line 3).

Claim 10 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 2.

Claim 11 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 1 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a programmed computer processor generating, storing and managing meta information by treating at same management level varyingly managed and related electronized product components (See for example: (See Abstract, "providing a set of control information for coordinating movement of the design information through development and to release while providing dynamic tracking of the status of elements of the bills of materials in an integrated and coordinated activity control system utilizing a repository which can be implemented in the form of a database (relational, object oriented, etc.) or using a flat file system. Once a model is created and/or identified by control information design libraries hold the actual pieces of the design under control of the system without limit to the number of libraries, and providing for tracking and hierarchical designs which are allowed to traverse through multiple libraries"; col. 8 lines 3-9; col. 17 line 64 – col. 18 line 16, wherein it is clearly illustrated all the necessary design components with the latest versions, even if they exist in different levels, will be picked up using the library search mechanism; Fig. 102; also see Fig. 77 for an example of meta information).

Claim 13 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 1 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management system wherein the

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hardware and firmware electronized components are stored according to a numbering system common to both the hardware and the firmware electronized components and added to each hardware and firmware electronized component (See for example: col. 26 lines 34-39; col. 28 lines 12-29).

Claim 14 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 13 and furthermore Van Huben discloses a component management system wherein patch information of each firmware electronized component is included as a subclass in the numbering system (See for example: col. 16 lines 65-67; col. 28 lines 36-37; col. 34 lines 19-23).

10. Claims 12, 15, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben and further in view of Call (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,738).

Claim 12 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 1. However Van Huben does not explicitly disclose that the component knowledge database is Extensible Markup Language (XML) data

Call teaches a database storing product information in XML format (col. 2 lines 4-11).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize XML as the storage format as disclosed by Call to store the component knowledge database as disclosed in Van Huben. By storing information expressed in eXtensible Markup Language (XML), and by using stylesheet information provided by the web site which is incorporating product information into their web presentations, the data supplied by the manufacturer can be rendered using font sizes,

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typefaces, background colors and formatting selected by the web page producer. Other characteristics of XML, including the ability to encourage or enforce conformity with content and formatting standards (col. 2 line 64- col. 3 line 10).

Claim 15 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 12 and furthermore the combination of Van Huben and Call discloses a component management system wherein the XML data comprises destination information of the hardware and firmware development data (See for example: Van Huben col. 36 lines 21-33).

Claim 16 is rejected for the reasons set forth hereinabove for claim 12 and furthermore the combination of Van Huben and Call discloses a component management system wherein the XML data comprises new and revised design notice information of the hardware and firmware electronized components (See for example: col. 20 lines 44-49; col. 20 lines 58-64; col. 87 lines 55-62).

Claim 17 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections and the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

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As to independent claim 9, the prior art of record does not anticipate nor suggest any component management device wherein a management unit conducts communications for getting a permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting a product based upon hardware and firmware development data with an author side client placed in the author side of the catalog and registers the catalog as a database in said storage unit when said management unit gets the permission, taken with the other limitations of the claim, were not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor otherwise fairly disclosed by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

~~"Boeing Upgrades On-Line Maintenance Information Service": an innovative on-~~
line information service for aircraft maintenance.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GWEN LIANG whose telephone number is 703-305-3985. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Monday and Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN BREENE can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

G.L.
January 30, 2004


JEAN M. CORNIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER

23/9/21 (Item 2 from file 621)
DIALOG(R) File 621:Gale Group New Prod. Annou. (R)
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Boeing Upgrades On-Line Maintenance Information Service

PR Newswire, p0813SFW025

August 13, 1997

Language: English Record Type: Fulltext

Document Type: Newswire; Trade

Word Count: 358

TEXT:

SEATTLE, Aug. 13 /PRNewswire/ -- The newest version of an innovative on-line information service for aircraft maintenance offers operators of Boeing jetliners better access to more data, setting the stage for future "one-stop shopping."

Boeing On-Line Data (BOLD) provides direct access to Boeing databases containing digitized technical drawings, service bulletins, Boeing Component Maintenance Manuals, and specifications for parts and materials. Databases are updated daily, freeing users from managing huge quantities of documents, including thousands of file cards containing microfilmed drawings.

The new, upgraded version of this service offers several enhancements requested by current users. New features include better user control of access to data, expanded search capabilities and the addition of supplier component maintenance manuals. Like the earlier version, the enhanced BOLD is accessed on standard computer workstations linked to high-speed, wide-area-network providers such as SITA, an aerospace industry service.

Boeing began offering on-line access to aircraft technical drawings in 1995, becoming the first airframe manufacturer to do so. Since then, Boeing has made more and more of its digitized maintenance information available over a global network delivery system.

"The new BOLD offering puts us closer to the day when our customers will be able to get all the data they need to operate their Boeing aircraft through a single network connection," said Rich Higgins, director of Technical Data Products and Services. "Eventually we won't need to send out revisions on paper, microfilm or even on digital media such as compact disks because all changes will be available on-line in real time."

To date, 31 airlines and repair agencies are BOLD customers, with 50 others in contract negotiations for the service. Future plans for BOLD include adding data for airplanes built by the Douglas Products Division.